

## **REMARKS**

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 1 - 25 and 27.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 26 as obvious over the Ward patent in view of the Courtney patent, and allowed claims 1 - 25 and 27.

### **35 USC 103(a)**

The Ward US Patent 4,834,531 discloses an intelligent docking system for space craft. Three lasers are provided for target illumination and a sensor array is provided to generate signal waveforms that result from detection of the laser illumination, the signal waveforms being processed to determine direction, range and attitude of the target. A microprocessor operates on the data from each sensor. Ward is not, however, an image acquisition apparatus. It does not provide an output of an image.

The Courtney US Patent 6,424,370 discloses a surveillance camera method for detecting moving objects using segmented data. An object tracker detects moving objects in a video sequence and provides indexing, or handles, marking events in the video sequence, such as the appearance and disappearance of objects, or deposit or removal objects.

Claim 26 is directed to an apparatus for image acquisition that generates meta data that can be used, for example, for correcting an image and for extracting data to improve the image as well as to analyze the image. The present apparatus is different than the prior art devices and the objectives sought by the apparatus are different. The present apparatus includes a processor that generates meta data that accompanies the image when the image is output so that, for example, the meta data may be used to correct distortion in the image. The meta data is generated when predetermined conditions are met intra-acquisition, or during acquisition of the image. Applicant submits that the combined teachings of the prior art do not show or suggest such intra-acquisition conditions for generating meta data. As such, the invention of claim 26 is non-obvious over the cited art, whether considered alone or in combination.

### **Additional Art**

The additional art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon is noted by the Applicants.

## Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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